

SANDY ADAMS

24TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY,
COMPETITION, AND THE INTERNET

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, TERRORISM,
AND HOMELAND SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS AND
OVERSIGHT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE AND
AERONAUTICS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Chairman Ryan,

As we continue the discussion on our Republican budget for the 2012 fiscal year, we write to you regarding federal funding for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The establishment of, and commitment to, human space exploration is critical to our country's national security and economy, and we respectfully ask that our Republican budget reflect this national priority.

NASA is a unique agency that has spurred private sector job growth, fuels the economy with American ideas and innovation, and contributes to the development of industries which even twenty years ago may have been considered pure fantasy. The extraordinary challenges of achieving access to space have motivated and accelerated the development of technologies and industrial capabilities. These capabilities have widespread applications and have contributed to the technological excellence of the United States. In practical terms, space exploration continues to inspire our young people to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics – the so-called STEM disciplines. Likewise, NASA's future space missions are critical to the continued development of new American technologies, as well as our high-tech infrastructure throughout all sectors of the economy. It is our belief that the commitments we make to the continuation of human space flight today will yield meaningful and sustained economic returns for decades to come.

Since the first Mercury flight on May 5, 1961, the U.S. human spaceflight program has been a source of pride and inspiration for our nation. Throughout history, scientific exploration has been a hallmark of the great nations – the ones that led. But once again, the Obama Administration's budget willingly cedes that leadership to China, Russia and India – countries that understand the importance of human space exploration. We cannot continue to accept this administration's assault on American exceptionalism and world leadership.

As our nation faces critical economic challenges, we must look to cut funding in places that will be challenging to accept. We appreciate your leadership in putting together a budget that not only honors our children by doing what is necessary to alleviate the debt that has been placed upon them, but also prioritizes current spending where it can do the most with the resources we have. This is why we are asking that any substantial reductions in programs or budget lines within the NASA budget would spare human spaceflight.

To be clear, we believe that NASA's budget can be reduced. Within the NASA budget specifically, we believe there is an opportunity to cut funding within the Earth Science account where an overabundance of climate change research is being conducted. We would like to extend our hands to work with you and your staff to identify other areas within the NASA budget that will reduce unnecessary spending and get our nation's debt under control.

Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this important issue. We look forward to working with you throughout the budget process to continue our nation's leadership in human space exploration.

Sincerely,



Sandy Adams
Member of Congress



Pete Olson
Member of Congress